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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A An isolated peptide comprising at least 9 contiguous amino acids of ~~SEQ.ID.NO.1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (Currently amended) A An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ.ID.NO.3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 or a functional fragment thereof having trypanolytic activity.

3. (Currently amended) The isolated peptide of claim 1 exhibiting trypanolytic activity.

4. (Withdrawn) An antibody specifically recognizing a peptide selected from the group consisting of a peptide comprising at least 9 contiguous amino acids of SEQ.ID.NO.1, a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.NO.3, a fragment of either thereof, and an epitope of either thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) A DNA sequence encoding an Eisenia foetida protein or polypeptide or encoding an immunologically active and/or functional fragment thereof selected from the group consisting of:

(a) DNA sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein or peptide comprising the amino acid sequence as given in SEQ ID NO. 1 or 3;

(b) DNA sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(c) DNA sequences hybridizing with the complementary strand of a DNA sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and encoding an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA sequence of (a) or (b);

(d) DNA sequences the nucleotide sequence of which is degenerated as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence of a DNA sequence as defined in any one of (a) to (c); and

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- (e) DNA sequences encoding a fragment of a protein encoded by a DNA sequence of any one of (a) to (d).
6. (Withdrawn) A recombinant expression vector comprising the DNA sequence of claim 5.
7. (Withdrawn) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 6.
8. (Withdrawn) The host cell of claim 7 wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *Bacillus sp.*, *Streptomyces sp.*, yeast, fungi, insect cells, plant cells and mammalian cells.
9. (Withdrawn) The host cell of claim 8, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.
10. (Withdrawn) A process for the production of an *Eisenia foetida* polypeptide or an immunologically active or functional fragment thereof comprising culturing a host cell of claim 7 under conditions allowing the expression and production of said polypeptide and recovering the thus produced polypeptide from the culture.
11. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least a an isolated peptide selected from the group of peptides consisting of a peptide comprising at least 9 contiguous amino acids of ~~SEQ ID NO: 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3, a fragment of either thereof having trypanolytic activity, and an epitope of either thereof.

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12. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a disease selected from the group of diseases consisting of trypanosomal infection, bacterial infection and cancer, said method comprising:
administering a peptide selected from the group of peptides consisting of a peptide comprising at least 9 contiguous amino acids of SEQ.ID.NO.1, a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.NO.3, a fragment of either thereof, and an epitope of either thereof.
13. (Currently amended) The isolated peptide of claim 2 exhibiting trypanolytic activity.
14. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli*, *Bacillus sp.*, *Streptomyces sp.*, yeast, fungi, insect cells, plant cells, and mammalian cells.
15. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 14, wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.
16. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein the peptide comprises at least 9 contiguous amino acids of ~~SEQ.ID.NO.1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, a fragment thereof having trypanolytic activity, or an epitope thereof.
17. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ.ID.NO.3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3, a fragment thereof having trypanolytic activity, or an epitope thereof.
18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12 wherein the peptide comprises at least 9 contiguous amino acids of SEQ.ID.NO.1 a fragment thereof, or an epitope thereof.
19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12 wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ.ID.NO.3, a fragment thereof, or an epitope thereof.

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Please add the following new claim:

20. (New) An isolated peptide consisting of a sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least 9 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 and a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 3 having trypanolytic activity.
